

CALL TO ACTION!!

**It's time to stop mountaintop
removal dead in its tracks.**



In the traditions of Mississippi Freedom Summer
and Redwood Summer...

Greedy, giant coal corporations have decided that Appalachia is the nation's sacrifice zone for cheap electricity. Mountaintop removal is an intensely destructive form of surface mining for coal. It is the final solution for the Forests, Mountains, Waters and Culture of Appalachia. We are calling on all residents of Appalachia, traveling activists, ex-Appalachian's, and concerned human rights and environmental activists to join us in defending the world's most productive and biologically diverse temperate forest ecosystems. Come to Appalachia in the Summer of 2005 and stop mountaintop removal dead in its tracks. Grassroots activists in Appalachia need our support!

For more information about Mountain Justice Summer, contact
mountainjusticesummer@hushmail.com
P.O. Box 16309 Knoxville, TN 37996

Down with King Coal!!!

Please photocopy and distribute this flyer

**Mountain Justice Summer
Southern Appalachia
2005**



Photo courtesy of www.OHVEC.org; Flight by Southwings.org

**Folks from Southern Appalachia will
gather this summer to fight for our
mountains; the source of our heritage,
culture and very existence.**

First Edition, January 19, 2005



Welcome to Appalachia

The region known as Appalachia is one of the most beautiful and biologically diverse areas of this gorgeous little green-and-blue planet that we call home. The mountains and forests of Appalachia filter air and water, create soil, provide habitat and spiritual sanctuary, and generally make life possible and desirable. The beauty and diversity have been evolving here for eons.

With the coming of industrialized Europeans, Appalachia has suffered, yet endured. Now, a new form of industrial exploitation has laid siege to Appalachia. It is called mountaintop removal and it's all about extracting coal cheaper and faster in order to line the pockets of greedheads up on Wall Street and to fuel the wasteful extravagance of a mindless, homogenous, consumer culture run amok. Mountaintop removal is exactly what the name says it is. The tops of mountains are blasted and bulldozed off into adjacent valleys in order to access thin seams of coal. The resulting landscape looks like it has been bombed. The coal is shipped out to energy companies and burned to make electricity. The valleys and hollows are filled with rock, rubble and mine spoils that obliterate springs, streams and forests. So many mountains have been destroyed that it is now referred to as mountain RANGE removal. It is a war against the earth.

Dynamite is cheaper than people, so mountain range removal does not create any new jobs. Communities adjacent to mountaintop removal coal mines suffer from poverty, have their foundations and wells ruined from blasting, and are in danger from hazards of overloaded coal trucks careening down small, windy mountain roads. Mountain range removal has destroyed approximately 1,000 miles of streams and 500 square miles of land in West Virginia. It is wrecking eastern Kentucky and southeastern Virginia and has recently appeared in Tennessee. It is an industrial cancer that is spreading and must be stopped.

Long viewed as powerless, ignorant hillbillies, mountain people in the coal country of Appalachia are organizing to save their homes, communities, culture and life supporting natural environment.

It is now, here, this summer, at the tipping point of destruction for our beloved Appalachian mountains, that we need to organize our communities and stand together in bold resistance to the evil scourge of mountain range removal coal mining.



Who's Who in the Destruction of Appalachia

Arch Coal Inc. One City Place Dr., Suite 300 St. Louis, MO 63141
314.994.2700, webmaster@archcoal.com, careers@archcoal.com
1.800.360.4519

National Coal Corporation (leading the charge for destruction in TN)
8915 George Williams Rd. Knoxville, TN 37923
Phones: 865.769.3749, 865.690.6900, 866.703.COAL (toll free)
Fax: 865.691.9982

info@nationalcoal.com, investorrelations@nationalcoal.com,
sales@nationalcoal.com, jdavis@nationalcoal.com

Crestview Capital Funds (an institutional investor in NCC)
95 Revere Drive, Suite A, Northbrook, IL 60062
Phone: 847.559.0060 Fax: 847.559.5807
www.crestviewcap.com lisa@crestviewcap.com

Cunningham & Company (a public relations firm working for NCC)
730 W. Randolph St., 6th Floor Chicago, IL 60661
Phone: 312.876.1070 Fax: 312.454.0261
www.cunninghamcomp.com info@cunninghamcomp.com

Massey Energy (destroyer of mountains, waterways and communities in WV and KY; also viciously anti-union)
4 North 4th Street, Richmond, VA 23219
Phone: 888.424.2417, 804.788.1824 www.masseyenergyco.com
Massey.Hotline@masseyenergyco.com

Some of Massey's top managers: katherine.kenny@masseyenergyco.com,
john.parker@masseyenergyco.com, michael.allen@masseyenergyco.com,
steve.sears@masseyenergyco.com, gary.smith@masseyenergyco.com,
gary.temple@masseyenergyco.com, tom.kielty@masseyenergyco.com,
thomas.dougherty@masseyenergyco.com

West Virginia Coal Association
P.O. Box 3923, Charleston, WV 25339 www.wvcoal.com
Phone: 304.342.4153 Fax: 304.342.7651

President - Bill Raney (braney@wvcoal.com), Senior VP - Chris Hamilton (chamilton@wvcoal.com), VP - Dan Miller (dmiller@wvcoal.com), Regulatory Affairs - Jason Bostic (jbostic@wvcoal.com), Administrative Assistant - Sandi Davison (sdavison@wvcoal.com)

Friends of Coal
P.O. Box 3923 Charleston, WV 25339
1.866.982.2625 www.friendsofcoal.org

Government Contacts

Call 'em and tell 'em you don't like MRR!!

Office of Surface Mining
1951 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20240
202.208.2719
getinfo@osmre.gov
OSMRULES@OSMRE.GOV
www.osmre.gov/ocpropos.htm

Tennessee Valley Authority
Board of Directors
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, TN 37902-1499
or call Ruth Horton at 865.632.3719
or email rmhorton@tva.gov

West Virginia Dept of
Environmental Protection
1356 Hansford Street
Charleston, WV 25301
Phone: 304.558.5929
Fax: 304.558.6576

Office of Surface Mining
George Miller, Director
530 Gay Street, Suite 500
Knoxville, TN 37902
865.545.4103 ext. 186
Fax: 865.545.4111
gmiller@osmre.gov

Governor Bredesen
Tennessee State Capital
Nashville, TN 37243-0001
Phone: 615.741.2001
Fax: 615.532.9711
phil.bredesen@state.tn.us

Governor Joe Manchin
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, WV 25305
Toll free: 1.888.438.2731
Phone: 1.304.558.2000
Fax: 1.304.342.7025
governor@wv.gov

Please contact the office below and ask for protection for Blair Mountain. It is the site of the legendary Battle of Blair Mountain between thousands of pro-union miners and anti-union gun thugs in August of 1921. It remains the largest use of the US military against civilians since the Civil War. For background info check out "Thunder in the Mountains" by Lon Savage, "Storming Heaven" by Denise Giardina, and "The Battle of Blair Mountain" by Robert Shogan. Blair Mountain is currently threatened with a major mountaintop removal project by Arch Coal.

Ms. Susan Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
West Virginia Division of Culture & History
State Historic Preservation Office
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, WV 25305-0300
Phone: 304.558.0220 ext. 158 Fax: 304.558.2779
susan.pierce@wvculture.org

Save a Mountain This Summer!



In the last half of the 20th century, two significant movements for justice in the United States provide us with inspiration for what is necessary to stop Mountain Range Removal. During Freedom Summer in 1964, thousands of civil rights activists came to Mississippi and other Southern states to try to end the long-time political disenfranchisement of African-Americans in the region. Redwood Summer was organized by North Coast Earth First! in California in 1990. In an effort to save the last of the ancient Redwood Forest groves, union members, locals and environmentalists came together to rise to the challenge of fighting for their survival. Both Summers gave fresh energy to struggling social movements and empowered them to succeed. Moved to action by outrage at the clear injustice of mountain range removal and inspired to organize by these two movements, grassroots groups from Appalachia bring you *Mountain Justice Summer*.

With Mountain Justice Summer, the goal is clear: To stop mountain range removal and protect the health and well-being of Appalachian families and the mountains they depend on.

Fed-up communities from West Virginia to Tennessee, from Kentucky to Virginia to Western North Carolina are organizing support for Mountain Justice Summer. Through positive, creative, non-violent, direct actions we will confront the dark crimes being committed against nature and our families.

We invite you to be a part of something special and make your mark on history. To our neighbors in these mountains, find your voice and stand with us. To people across the country appalled by the injustice of Mountain Range Removal and seeking a meaningful purpose for their summer, we need your help. Come to one of the host communities in the spectacular Appalachians, "the most beautiful place in the world," and help.

Learn more about Mountain Range Removal and how to be a part of Mountain Justice Summer at www.mountainjusticesummer.org.

For more information about how YOU can get involved in Mountain Justice Summer, please contact the following:

mountainjustice@hushmail.com, 865-633-8483
Mountain Justice Summer
c/o KEF! - P.O. Box 16309 Knoxville, TN 37996

Voices from the Appalachian Coalfields

The people of the Appalachian Coalfields are an integral part to Mountain Justice Summer and the campaign to stop mountain range removal. Their stories show the public the horrors of living with this destruction; stories that need to be told so the rest of world will know what it takes to run microwaves, hair dryers, and entire cities.

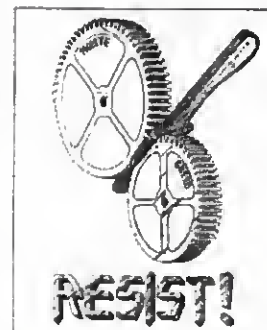
Joe Barnett built his family a home in West Virginia on the property where his wife was born. Seven years after they moved into their dream home a visitor brought news that would quickly destroy their dreams.

"One day some coal company officials knocked on our door to tell us they'd be strip mining up the hollow. From that day, our lives have drastically changed. We've had our house tom up real bad by the concussion caused by blasting, we've been flooded several times, lost our road, lost part of our yard, and then our water well was dried up. The only thing the company has paid for was a drilled well and pump. Other than that they've not reimbursed us for any other damages. We've been cheated, lied to, harassed, and made to feel like second-rate people. For that reason I've gotten involved with other folks, speaking out against mountaintop removal mining. Thank you in advance (for your help) for I believe everyone is tired of our land being devastated."

Julia Bonds, whose father was a coal miner, has lived in the shadow of coal mining all her life, but when her 6-year old grandson stood knee deep in a stream full of poisoned, dead fish, asking "what's wrong with the fish, Gramma?" something changed.

"That moment opened up my eyes. Until then, I was like regular Americans, ignoring environmental problems. But that day I could see everyone's child in that stream asking, what's wrong with the fish? People ask me what it's like to live in these hollows, and I tell them it makes us feel safe and secure like a big hug from God. But then these corporate terrorists come in and started blasting and terrorize us every day. How do you tell a child his life is forfeited for corporate greed? I'm positive that if Americans knew what's happening in Appalachia for their so-called 'cheap' energy and 'clean' coal, they would understand it's our duty to be stewards of the earth and preserve it for our children. The coal companies are asking too much. They're asking for these mountains and for our culture and history, our children's future, and God's creation. But they're not getting it; they're not getting it."

In West Virginia, there is the Friends of Mountains coalition, including the WV Sierra Club, the Ohio Valley Environmental Coalition (www.ohvec.org), Coal River Mountain Watch, Larry Gibson's Keepers of the Mountains (304.542.1134) and more. Appalachian Voices (www.appvoices.org) has produced an excellent set of organizing material including a powerpoint slideshow available on DVD or CD. Dave Cooper has been on a nonstop national tour to promote an end to MRR. Contact him to book the slideshow in your community (davecooper928@yahoo.com, 859.255.7946).

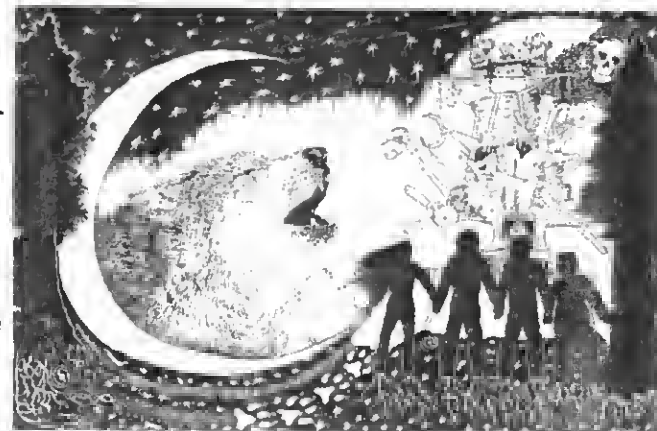


In Tennessee, Save Our Cumberland Mountains (www.socm.org) has been organizing against the Zeb Mountain MRR project. Tennessee Forest Watch has been organizing water quality testing and other monitoring of MRR in TN. The TN Sierra Club, supported by the Appalachian Law Center, the TN Clean Water Network and

the Dogwood Alliance, is engaging in lawsuits over MRR. Southerners for Environmental Justice is educating the public about the permitting process for coal mining in TN. Katuah Earth First! is active against MRR as well.

In Kentucky, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (www.kftc.org) is organizing against MRR. Appalshop (www.appalshop.org) has videos available about the effects of MRR and destructive strip mining.

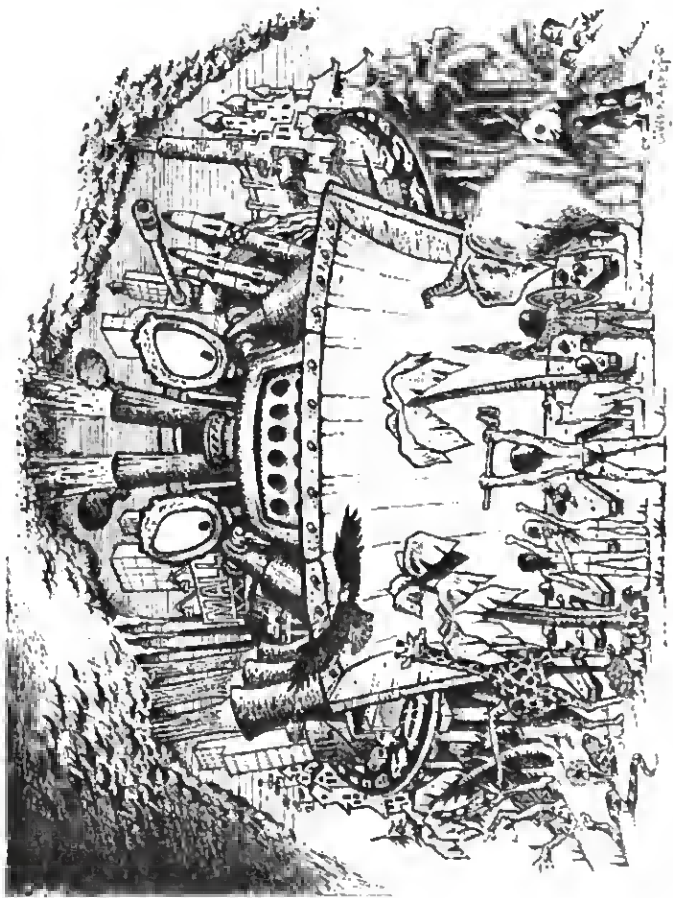
There are more folks, groups and organizations challenging MRR. Mountain Justice Summer will compliment all of this work. We will help draw attention to this pressing issue and we will help stop it.



There is a growing movement to protect the mountains of Appalachia!

The movement against mountain range removal is growing. Mountain Justice Summer aims to help that movement get bigger and stronger to not only stop MRR, but eventually abolish the destructive practices of strip mining. There are groups across Appalachia working to save our mountains and cultural heritage. The groups and individuals listed here are doing important work. Their inclusion here is for informational and identification purposes ONLY, they do NOT necessarily endorse Mountain Justice Summer or work with each other. That's ok - a broad, diverse movement, reaching out to all sorts of folks with different tactics is good and healthy.

Nationally, Sierra Club and the Citizen's Coal Council (citizenscoalcouncil.org) are working on MRR. Activists have recruited two Congressmen, Christopher Shays (R-CT) and Frank Pallone (D-NJ) to introduce the Clean Water Protection Act which would outlaw dumping mine spoils in streams, effectively ending the practice of valley fills. Many folks are working to help that bill work through the cesspool of corruption known as the US Congress. Southwings (www.southwings.com), the environmental air force, has been providing pilots and airplanes for overflights of mountain range removal sites across Appalachia.



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Maria's Story

Hello my name is Maria [redacted]; I have been flooded seven times, once am a 36-year-old mother of two, a with no rain. The worst of flooding boy 14 years old and a girl 11. We so far was in June of 2003. The tiny live in Bobwhite in Boone County, stream that has always run through WV. The property where we live this property has been manipulated has been in our family for 4 generations until it has become a raging river. On June 16, 2003, it began to rain hundreds of years ago. We live in an and within 45 minutes we had lost area where everyone knows every- almost everything that my family one. Throughout the years, my fam- before me had spent their lives ily before me prepared this property working for. There was a 30 foot to sustain the

The water took a swatch 20 feet deep and 67 feet wide right through the middle of everything we owned.

There was foot bridges and campsites dotted along the path that took you around our acreage. North-ing much has changed around here since I was a child. That was the wonderful thing about it; life here was slow paced and kind of laid back. In 2000, we had a new neighbor move in, not just any neighbor; this is a horrible neighbor. This neighbor is an 1,183 acre mountaintop removal coal mining strip and five massive valley fills. For those of you that do not know what this is, it is where the mining com-pany rips off the mountain peaks and tosses it into the adjoining val-ley to get at the coal seams beneath. Well our property is in the valley that the mine company is filling. Throughout the past four years I



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And They
call it
FREEDOM

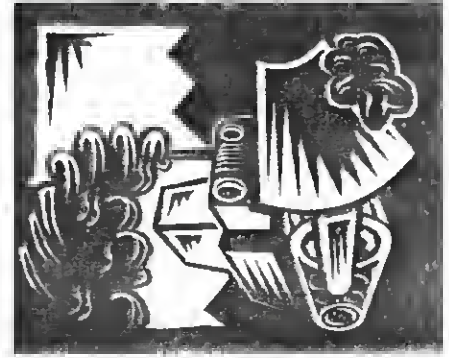
Then, there are the United Mine Workers of America (UMWA). This once powerful and feisty union has unfortunately been silent on the issue of MTR. The UMWA reportedly despises Massey Energy Company.

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Who's Who and What's What in the Coalfields

Its important to get a grip on what is going on in the Coalfields of Appalachia. There are many different players, characters and operators in the ongoing tragedy of Mountain Range Removal.

First, the coal companies. These are the heirs of the brutal robber barons, carpetbaggers and industrialists that descended on Appalachia and raided it like pigs at a trough from the late 1800's thru 1930's. The small coal operators have been consolidated into ever larger conglomerates and multi-national corporations. In West Virginia, Massey Energy and Arch Coal are the big players. These companies also operate in eastern Kentucky. In Tennessee, National Coal Company is positioning itself to be the dominant player. Pitston Coal, Peabody Coal and smaller operators remain active. Often the coal companies own the land they are mining. Sometimes they own the mineral rights under other land owned by rich, absentee land holders or under public land. In West Virginia in particular, many coal mining sites retain the names of their former small operators when, in fact, they are owned by the likes of Massey or Arch.



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Bob Cline the company engineer was brazen enough to say "this was an act of GOD!" This infuriated me, how dare they blame this on God. It wasn't God that I seen up there on the equipment. God put these beautiful mountains here, but I know God did not send these mountains tumbling down on me and my family. Folks ask, why don't you just move? How can I? The mine company has devalued this property so much that it will not sell if I wanted to sell it. Anyone would be crazy to buy a wasteland. How can I move anything out I still have no access to? We now have to walk 500 yards in and out of where we live. This has devastated us financially so we cannot afford to rent a house. Why should we have to leave the home that has been such a large part of our culture and heritage for so many years? We are of Cherokee nationality and we are very bonded to our land. Our house is where we sleep and eat, our home is our land.

Once I gained my composure I looked around our community and seen this same devastation everywhere. It was like a war zone. I then began organizing [redacted] to try to stop Mountaintop Removal Coal mining for the sake of our people and communities. Could you please help? The Bush administration is 'clarifying' the wording of the Clean Water Act of 1977 to allow this to atrocity to escalate. Please contact your local representatives and ask them to support HR738, the Clean Water Protection Act. This bill could stop the destruction in its tracks, but it's going to take more than just West Virginia residents to do this. We are all downstream from mountaintop removal coal mining. If one US citizen's rights are being abolished so are yours. This isn't only about the wildlife and ecosystems, this is about human lives that are being sacrificed for America's need for energy. Please Help! Do not allow your fellow Americans to continue to be sacrificed for need and greed of the energy corporations. We can ban together and stop this! Demand clean energy now! Demand a better future for my children and yours. Contact [redacted] US and we can put you on our mailing list and keep you updated on how you (pgs. 3+17) can help. Thank You!



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A Call For Action The Human Face of Mountain Range Removal

By Herb [unclear] on Hutton Coal River Valley, West Virginia. Photo by [unclear] of coal fields in [unclear].

Mountain range removal is the most damaging form of coal extraction ever devised by man. It not only kills mountains, it kills the human beings who live on, and below the mountains. It destroys a culture and mountain heritage that dates back to the early 1700's, when our ancestors first settled in these mountains. Our struggle with the coal barons has been ongoing since the late 1800's. They have murdered our people, burned our homes, robbed our children's future, and denied our basic human rights, while the U.S. government has either turned a blind eye or backed the coal industry. Now it has come to this: mountain range removal threatens to end our existence forever; the finishing touch to modernism's cultural genocide in Appalachia.

Mountain range removal threatens to end our existence forever; the finishing touch to modernism's cultural genocide in Appalachia.

Human rights violations in America do exist, and there is no better example of those violations than life in the coalfields of Appalachia.

Mountain range removal starts with the removal of all vegetation. Trees are bulldozed over and pushed into the valleys to be burned. Huge access roads are then built in order to bring in mammoth, earth-moving equipment. This alone requires much blasting. Once the equipment is in place, the horror and rape begins. Holes are drilled in the ground and packed with high explosives. Part of the mountain is then blown away. Next comes the giant earth movers, dumping that which is not coal (overburden) into nearby valleys, burying mountain streams with pulverized rock, iron, copper, lead, chromium, mercury, and many other heavy metals that were once buried deep in the earth. Next, the coal is removed and sent down the mountain by beltline. The blasting and raping continues until all seams of coal are

Most American's have never heard the words mountain range removal. It's the "dirty little secret" that the government and its corporate puppet masters want to keep hidden from the eyes of America, and the world.

Food, housing and camping are all being arranged. Safe houses modeled on Redwood Summer have been established in six major Appalachian cities so far. Like in Redwood Summer, volunteers will be routed through these houses for preparation before being sent into the coalfields. Campsites have been identified and food donations are being secured. Come to our home and help us fight for one summer. During the summer you can hike, photograph, canvass, camp, cook and fight for the very survival of one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world. We will be alternating between campsites near mountain range removal sites and time in various cities, towns and communities promoting educational tours and demonstrating at the headquarters of the greedy coal companies. It won't be easy. Historically the Appalachian Mountains and her people have been considered a "Fourth world" by the greedy corporate carpetbagging coal corporations. They consider us a national sacrifice zone in their search for profits. But we are standing up and fighting back, and YOU can help us tip the balance.

Mississippi Summer hosted schools. Mountain Justice Summer will have teach-ins and workshops throughout the summer. Mississippi Summer had people going door to door. Mountain Justice Summer has a listening project that has been formed for folks to go door to door in threatened mountain communities to listen and talk about the our fears, hopes and dreams for the mountains we love and live in.

Mountain Justice Summer hopes to include plant identification, media escorts, pre-blast photography, endangered species identification, listening projects, demonstrations, tour promotion, non-violent direct action, camping, and in general raising hell for our mountains. The coal companies think they can destroy Appalachia without a fight. They are betting billions on our silence. They know that if people of North America find out about this theft of mountains, the outrage will destroy their attempted theft of a people's cultural heritage. The icon of the forest campaigns of the west coast are the redwoods. The redwoods are a part of many people's cultural identity out West. Here it is our mountains. Join us for a summer. We are going fight like hell for our mountains this summer. It will echo from hill to hill. It will be hard work -- always challenging, sometimes scary -- but in the end you will be able to say, "I helped save a mountain." And you will leave a monument to your summer's work that will exist for eons. And that's something special.

If you can volunteer email: mountainjusticesummer@hushmail.com

We need more ~~houses~~ houses and help recruiting folks on the East Coast. We also need more food sources. We need more contact with organic and local farmers. We need cars, camping gear, cameras and money. Contact us and we will get you information. Call us and we will put you on our email list. But make contact. Help us fight. One person must make a difference.

Stop Mountain Range Removal!

Come to Appalachia for Mountain Justice Summer!

Mountain Range Removal is the ultimate in theft of a people's heritage, the destruction of entire watersheds and the annihilation of one of the most biologically diverse places on earth. And the perpetrators are turning it into the biological equivalent of a parking lot. The theft of our mountains is escalating as the coal companies strive to outdo one another in their orgy of destruction. The situation is a desperate one. The greedy coal companies have come up with a "final solution" for our mountains.

Redwood Summer started with an emergency call to action to save the Redwood Forests. This is our emergency call to action to save our mountains. This is Mountain Justice Summer. This summer will be the catalyst for a broad based resistance movement that will succeed in stopping King Coal! We will begin the transformation of Appalachia from a resource colony to a liberated bioregion that fosters equality, justice and ecological harmony.

Small, community-based grassroots groups have been fighting these multi-billion dollar coal companies with slingshots. An amazing coalition of miners, school teachers, tree huggers, and folks who just plain love the mountains have united to preserve and fight for these mountains we love so much, and we have been kicking ass. But though the love we have for our mountains knows no bounds, neither does the greed of the coal barons hellbent on their search for profits at the expense of all else. Enough is enough. Help us stand. Your presence this summer could mean life or death for a mountain. We need you now, this summer.

Mountain Justice Summer is a call to action for the people to stand up to the final solution for our life supporting ecosystems - mountain range removal. We need your help to fight

King Coal. Others ask for your money. We need you. With a little help we can break the back of this massive destruction that lays waste to entire ecosystems and watersheds. We are asking for volunteers to dedicate a summer to our efforts. We see our call to action as an emergency plea, in desperate circumstances -- to ratchet up the resistance to the atrocity of Mountain Range Removal before it's too late.



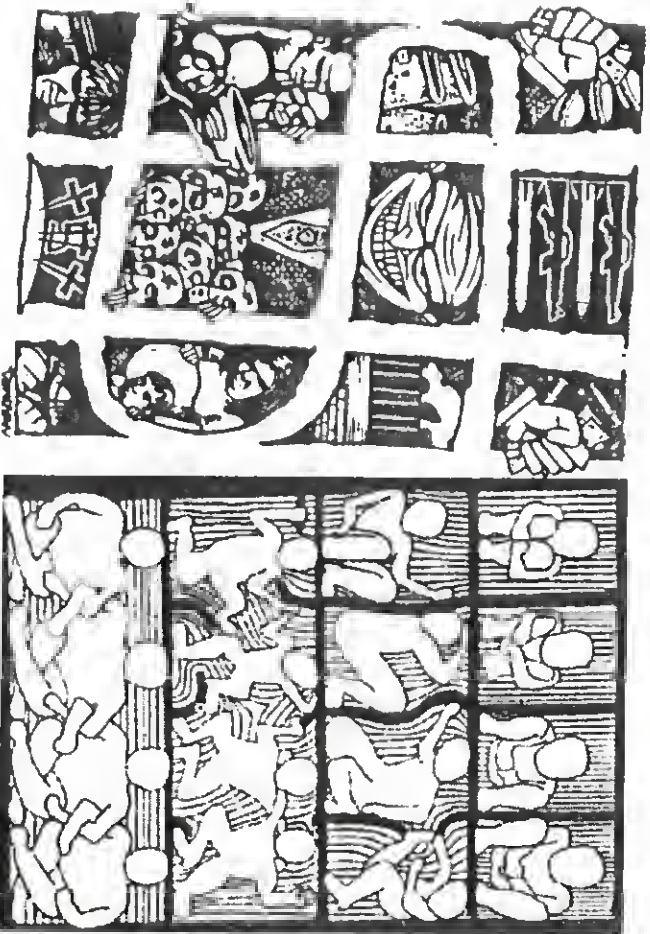
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extracted, sometimes taking off 900 feet or more of the mountain, creating huge valley fills above our homes. What used to be rich topsoil has now been either incinerated or buried deep beneath rubbles of blasted rock. The ecosystem of that mountain is now destroyed forever. Meanwhile, the coal that has been extracted and sent down the beltline has to be cleaned at the preparation plant before shipping. Coal fired power plants want the coal as clean as possible so it will "burn cleaner." The coal goes into a gigantic chemical treated cleaning tank. This process removes impurities from the coal, including mercury, arsenic, and many other toxins. The sludge generated from this process settles in the bottom of the tank and then is pumped back up the mountain and into huge toxic sludge lakes confined only by an earthen dam. The cleaned coal is then loaded into train cars or coal trucks and sprayed with a chemical binding agent in order to keep the coal dust down on the way to market. Obviously, the environmental impact to plants, trees, and the wildlife are enormous. But, what about the impact on the human species? Pure and simple - people living in the coalfields live in a state of terror. Since there is neither vegetation nor topsoil on the mountain to absorb the rainfall, we live in fear when it rains. During a rainstorm, our children go to bed fully clothed, plotting escape routes in case we have to flee in the middle of the night. We constantly worry that our kids may be killed by a falling rock on their way to or from school, or buried in toxic sludge while they sit at their school desk. We have had people swept away in mudslides and water tides pouring down from mountaintop removal sites, yet the coal companies have the audacity to call these things "Acts of God." In October of 2000, a sludge dam in Inez, KY, failed, spilling 310 million gallons of toxic sludge into Tug Fork of The Big Sandy River, destroying all aquatic life, and poisoning groundwater and soil for 110 miles downstream. These earthen dams will fail again. On the Coal River in southern West Virginia, there are four such types of these dams pointed directly at communities and schools. All of them hold over two billion gallons of toxic sludge. One of them, known as the Brushy Fork impoundment, is the largest sludge dam in the United States, currently containing 7 billion gallons of sludge and scheduled to grow to over 9 billion gallons. If it fails, all life will most likely be lost for 40 miles downstream. A smaller dam did fail at Buffalo Creek, WV, in 1972, sending a wall of water and sludge down the valley that killed 125 people; mostly sleeping women and children.

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The coal industry portrays opponents of mountain range removal/mountaintop removal (MRR/MTR) as extremists who care more about birds, bats, and bullfrogs than they do about people. Again, the industry lies. Appalachian PEOPLE—individuals, families, communities, and an entire culture—suffer the coal barons' abuses in the country's mad lust for cheap, dirty fossil fuel. The industry and the media portray Appalachians as ignorant, backward, inbred hillbillies completely undeserving of the mountains in which they live. By dehumanizing the mountain residents, the industry uses the same tactic used by all colonial powers to justify robbing, displacing, or massacring the natives. The industry is presently committing genocide in Appalachia, destroying a people more ancient than the nation, and hiding it behind the ecocide that so many Americans have come to accept as the cost of doing business.



The industry convinces the masses that Appalachia must be leveled in order to provide employment and national security. Yet as coal production has risen, coal employment has dropped nearly 75% in the last 20 years or so in West Virginia, due in large part to MRR (source: WV Coal Association). MRR employs a handful of blasters and heavy equipment operators compared to the numbers needed for underground mining. The ongoing exodus from West Virginia has resulted in closing schools, loss of congressional representation, and loss of hope for many. Others remain, either hoping for better days ahead or just too stubborn to leave the land that has been in their families for eight or nine generations.

But the coalfields are dangerous, and those who stay here or come here do so at great risk. Jeremy Davidson, a three-year-old boy asleep in his bed, was killed at about 2:30 in the morning of August 20, 2004, when a coal company pushed a boulder off the mountain above his home near Appalachia, Virginia. The company was fined a paltry \$15,000 and has the audacity to appeal the fine. This was the most recent fatality in King Coal's war on the Appalachian people. Add this to the deaths from flooding, coal truck accidents, mining accidents and anti-union violence, and you begin to get a taste of the industry's complete disregard for human life and human rights. Three million pounds of explosives per day are used in West Virginia alone (leading the nation), with Kentucky right behind and Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee each getting a significant beating (source: Institute of Makers of Explosives/U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook). The total explosive force used in West Virginia EACH WEEK is close to that used on Hiroshima. No ecosystem or culture can long survive such a pounding. Ongoing blasting, speeding and overweight coal trucks, coal dust, dangerous facilities placed in immediate proximity to schools, well depletion and contamination, destruction of cemeteries, polluted rivers and air, flooding, and threats from coal thugs make life in the coalfields unbearable for many. This is what homegrown terrorism looks like.

The people of Appalachia are being turned into a sacrifice zone for cheap electricity.

The people of Appalachia need your help. We are being turned into a sacrifice zone for cheap electricity. Our rights have been taken away. Explosives and machines have replaced our coal miners' jobs. We are being forced off our land and our mountain communities are being destroyed. Who is next? Is our country destined to become a third world resource economy for the sake of corporate profits?

We call upon those who care about human rights, and basic human dignity. If we allow one American citizen to lose those rights, all Americans leave themselves prey to losing those same rights. To quote Thomas Paine, "If there must be trouble, let it be in my time, so that my children may live in peace."

A culture that allows these abuses will allow any abuse. Our Appalachian politicians ignore the pleas of their constituents while their pockets are lined with coal money. Our teachers, small business operators, and press are intimidated into silence. Our nation, which we have fought and died for, wastes energy by the megaton. Meanwhile, one in six U.S. women of child-bearing age has unsafe levels of mercury in her system, mainly due to pollution from coal-fired power plants. Make a stand against mountain range removal. Stand up for the people of Appalachia, America, and the world.